

REMARKS

The abstract has been objected to in the Office Action. A new abstract is provided herewith.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to show all of the claimed features. The rejection is respectfully traversed. The drawings detail each and every limitation of claims 1 and 10 as presently disclosed. This is readily understood by the original English translation (including reference numerals and alphanumerical references) filed with the original specification. Should the Examiner still believe that all of the limitations are not adequately provided, the Examiner is kindly requested to provide additional information beyond "the limitations of claim 1 and 10" that indicates the missing limitations.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hoffpauir in view of Robinson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention relates to a management system in which situations necessitating a data alignment between manager and agent exist. For example, setup of a new connection or after a connection termination or after initialization of the agent or the manager. In this regard, data stored by the manager and agent is not necessarily the same, as opposed to the regular course of network management. To achieve a state where both manager and agent have the same information, data alignment occurs. Data alignment means that an agent sends data to the manager such that the manager is aware of the data stored by the agent. Hence, data alignment corresponds to synchronization of information.

Additionally, in the invention, the manager sends a request to the agent requesting the transmission of alignment data, and correlation information which will be used in filtering as follows. Typically, agents are connected to more than one manager, requiring the agent to send messages to more than one manager. For this purposes, filter devices are applied. The filter devices received data independently of the manager, i.e. they receive data for multiple managers. These

devices filter the data so that a manager receives only messages intended for the specified destination (i.e. the specified manager). Specifically, with respect to alignment data, filtering is accomplished using the correlation information. This means that the filter setting for the manager having requested the data alignment are set such that messages bearing the correlation information are let through to the manager, while data is filtered out for other managers. This is accomplished, in one embodiment, by looking at an additional field of messages including alignment data.

Hoffpauir discloses a network management system server of a telecommunications system having a configuration management server, a fault management server, an accounting management server and an event filtering and routing server. The event filtering and routing server receives events, alarm and state change information and routes this information to an appropriate server (col. 16, lns. 33-35). That is, the event filtering and routing server receives real-time notifications and filters/routes them (col. 22, lns. 59-64). As stated by the Examiner, Hoffpauir does not teach transmitting data for realignment, but that Robinson teaches this feature. Applicant's respectfully disagree.

Robinson discloses conversion of parallel data into serial data in an ISDN connection (col. 2, lns. 53-55, col. 3, lns. 21-23). During conversion, B1 data may be placed erroneously in the time slot (or channel) designated for B1 data (col. 6, lns. 33-36). Robinson refers to such problem as "data alignment," which is solved by placing B1 data properly in the time slot designated for B1 data, and B2 in the time slot designated for B2 data (col. 6, lns. 42-45). It therefore becomes clear from the disclosure in Robinson that the meaning of "data alignment" is different from the meaning of "data alignment" in the present invention.

Since the recited structure and method are not disclosed in the applied prior art (either alone or in combination), claims 1 and 10 are patentable. Claims depending therefrom are similarly patentable.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hoffpauir in view of Robinson, further in view of Hirsch. The rejection is respectfully traversed since Hirsch is

not appropriate prior art. Specifically, Hirsch is owned by the same company (Siemens AG) and has a 371 date of May 25, 2000 (and an earlier publication date of June 10, 1999). The instant invention has an effective filing date of August 24, 1999. Hence, under 103(c), since the prior art (Hirsch) under subsection 102(e) was owned by the same persons at the time of invention, patentability is not precluded.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

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